

# The Year in Review

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Volume 54 *International Legal Developments*  
*Year in Review: 2019*

Article 28

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February 2024

## Africa

Stella Amanuel Araya

Joseph Arop

Victor Nsoh Azure

Reshma Baig

Twasiima Bigirwa

*See next page for additional authors*

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### Recommended Citation

Stella Amanuel Araya et al., *Africa*, 54 ABA/SIL YIR 447 (2024)

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## Africa

### Authors

Stella Amanuel Araya, Joseph Arop, Victor Nsoh Azure, Reshma Baig, Twasiima Bigirwa, Anne Bodley, Nicolas Bremer, Michela Cocchi, D. Porpoise Evans, Sara Frazão, Angela Gallerizzo, Laverne Lewis Gaskins, Chileke Sakala, John Mukum Mbaku, Jenny Spencer Medina, Alexandra Meise, Luís Miranda, Beverly Mumbo, Connie Nawaigo, Ricardo Alves Silva, Tania Tossa, and Marc Weitz

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## **Africa**

STELLA AMANUEL ARAYA, JOSEPH AROP, VICTOR NSOH AZURE,  
RESHMA BAIG, TWASIIMA BIGIRWA, ANNE BODLEY,  
NICOLAS BREMER, MICHELA COCCHI, D. PORPOISE EVANS,  
SARA FRAZÃO, ANGELA GALLERIZZO, LAVERNE LEWIS GASKINS,  
CHILEKE SAKALA, JOHN MUKUM MBAKU, JENNY SPENCER MEDINA,  
ALEXANDRA MEISE, LUÍS MIRANDA, BEVERLY MUMBO,  
CONNIE NAWAIGO, RICARDO ALVES SILVA, TANIA TOSSA,  
AND MARC WEITZ\*

This article discusses the significant international legal developments that occurred in Africa in 2019.<sup>1</sup>

### **I. North Africa**

#### **A. WESTERN SAHARA**

##### *1. MINURSO Mandate Renewed*

In October 2019, the UN Security Council renewed its mission in Western Sahara another year amid “frustration” of the Polisario Front, which wants independence for the disputed region.<sup>2</sup> Morocco had annexed the former

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\* Committee Editor (Bodley); Angola (Frazão; Silva; Medina); Benin (Ed.); Botswana (Sakala); Burkina Faso (Ed.); Burundi (Ed.); Cameroon (Frazão; Silva; Medina; Ed.); Cape Verde (Frazão; Silva; Medina); CAR (Ed.); Chad (Arop); Comoros (Ed.); DRC (Weitz; Ed.); Congo (Frazão; Silva; Medina; Ed.); Côte d'Ivoire (Ed.); Djibouti (Ed.); Equatorial Guinea (Frazão; Silva; Medina; Ed.); Eritrea (Cocchi); Ethiopia (Araya; Cocchi); Gabon (Ed.; Frazão; Silva; Medina); Gambia (Ed; Arop); Ghana (Azure); Guinea (Ed.); Guinea-Bissau (Ed.); Kenya (Ed.); Lesotho (Ed.); Liberia (Arop); Madagascar (Ed.); Malawi (Sakala); Mali (Ed.); Mauritania (Ed.); Mauritius (Ed.); Mozambique (Miranda; Frazão; Silva; Medina); Namibia (Ed.); Niger (Tossa; Ed.); Nigeria (Bremer; Arop; Cocchi); Rwanda (Ed.); São Tomé and Príncipe (Frazão; Silva; Medina); Senegal (Frazão; Silva; Medina); Seychelles (Ed.); Sierra Leone (Ed.); Somalia (Baig); South Africa (Azure; Cocchi); South Sudan (Ed.); Sudan (Bremer); Swaziland (Ed.); Tanzania (Meise); Togo (Ed.); Uganda (Bigirwa); Western Sahara (Ed.); Zambia (Sakala); Zimbabwe (Evans); AfCHPR (Gaskins; Mbaku); AfComm. (Gaskins; Mbaku); AEC (Mumbo; Mbaku; Gallerizzo; Azure; Cocchi); AU (Azure; Cocchi); ECOWAS (Evans); EAC (Ed.); AfDB (Mbaku; Ed.); Afreximbank (Weitz); ECA (Mbaku); SADC (Sakala); COMESA (Nawaigo); IGAD (Mbaku); ECCAS (Evans); UMA (Cocchi); OHADA (Cocchi); UNMICT (Meise); biographies: <http://www.abanet.org/dch/committee.cfm?com=IC805000>.

1. While some of the sources in this article are not from traditional works of scholarship, the article still provides a useful survey of 2019 developments.

2. Staff Writer, *UN Renewal Western Sahara MINURSO Mission Mandate for a Year*, DEF. POST, Oct. 31, 2019, <https://thedefensepost.com/2019/10/31/un-minurso-mission-western-sahara-renewed/>.

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Spanish colony and fought with the Algeria-backed Polisario Front from 1975 to 1991.<sup>3</sup> The United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) was deployed to monitor the truce and hold a referendum on its independence from Morocco but it never materialized.<sup>4</sup>

## II. West Africa

### A. BENIN

#### 1. *Controversial Amnesty Law*

In October 2019, deputies adopted a controversial amnesty law to drop charges against those involved in electoral violence this year.<sup>5</sup> Hundreds had protested the exclusion of opposition parties from parliamentary polls and called for President Patrice Talon to step down.<sup>6</sup>

### B. BURKINA FASO

#### 1. *Media Restrictions*

In June 2019, Burkina Faso adopted a law providing for jail terms up to ten years for divulging military operations.<sup>7</sup> Criticized by opposition lawmakers as well as media and rights groups, the amendment bans publication of images of attacks against security forces and victims of terrorist crimes.<sup>8</sup> The former French colony has been battling escalating attacks over the last three years. Most attacks are attributed to the jihadist group Ansar ul Islam, the Group to Support Islam and Muslims which has sworn allegiance to al-Qaeda, and Islamic State-affiliated groups.<sup>9</sup>

### C. CAPE VERDE

#### 1. *Renewable Electricity Plan*

With Resolution 39/2019, the Council of Ministers approved the 2018–2040 Master Plan for the Electricity Sector, which among other

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3. *Id.*

4. *Id.*

5. *Benin 2019*, AMNESTY INT'L, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/africa/benin/report-benin/> (last visited June 14, 2020).

6. *Protesters in Benin Clash with Police in Post-Election Violence*, ALJAZEERA POST (May 2, 2019), <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/05/protesters-benin-clash-police-post-election-violence-190502151557935.html>.

7. Staff Writer, *Burkina Faso Adopts Law Restricting Media Coverage of Military Operations*, DEF. POST (June 22, 2019), <https://thedefensepost.com/2019/06/22/burkina-faso-law-media-coverage-military-operations/>.

8. *Id.*

9. *Id.*

things, aims to achieve thirty percent electricity production from renewable energy sources by 2025 and over fifty percent by 2030.<sup>10</sup>

D. CÔTE D'IVOIRE

1. *Arbitrary Detentions*

In 2019, Ivorian authorities' use of repressive laws resulted in arbitrary detention of people peacefully exercising their human rights.<sup>11</sup> Amnesty International called on authorities to end arbitrary arrests and release those detained, reporting at least seventeen cases in the last five years of journalists and bloggers held, and the National Council of the Press has suspending and fining newspapers.<sup>12</sup>

2. *Marriage Equality*

In June 2019, Côte d'Ivoire was close to passing marriage reforms to provide married women equal rights to household assets and to protect a woman's right to inherit upon the death of her spouse.<sup>13</sup> A March bill was passed aligning the age of consent for marriage to eighteen for both sexes and abolishing special dispensations that allowed for girls under eighteen to marry.<sup>14</sup>

E. GAMBIA

1. *Truth Commission Commences*

In January 2019, the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission commenced an expected two years of hearings to investigate extrajudicial killings, torture, forced disappearances, and other abuses from the twenty-two-year regime of former President Yahya Jammeh.<sup>15</sup> The eleven-member Commission is authorized to recommend the prosecution of perpetrators and the award of financial compensation to victims.<sup>16</sup>

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10. *Cape Verde Legal News: January through June 2019*, MIRANDA ALLIANCE (Jan-June 2019), <https://www.mirandalawfirm.com/en/insights-knowledge/publications/legal-news/cape-verde-legal-news-january-through-june-2019>.

11. *Côte d'Ivoire: Arbitrary Arrests, Crackdown on Dissent and Torture ahead of Presidential Election*, AMNESTY INT'L (Feb. 11, 2019), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/02/cote-divoire-arbitrary-arrests-crackdown-on-dissent-and-torture/>.

12. *See id.*

13. Juliana Nnoko-Mewanu, *Côte d'Ivoire Marriage Reform a Step for Women*, HUM. RTS. WATCH (July 24, 2019), <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/07/24/cote-divoire-marriage-reform-step-women>.

14. Nicholas Boring, *Côte d'Ivoire: Bill to Amend Marriage Law Approved*, LIBR. CONGRESS (Aug. 9, 2019), <https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/cte-divoire-bill-to-amend-marriage-law-approved/>.

15. *Gambia Truth Commission Starts to Address Jammeh-era Rights Abuses*, DEUTSCHE WELLE (Jan. 8, 2019), <https://www.dw.com/en/gambia-truth-commission-starts-to-address-jammeh-era-rights-abuses/a-46990894>.

16. *Id.*

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2. *Worker Protection, Social Safety*

In June 2019, Gambia and the World Bank signed a U.S. \$30 million Social Safety Nets project to implement policies to protect the poor.<sup>17</sup> The policies are articulated in the country's National Development Plan and its National Social Protection Policy.<sup>18</sup>

F. GHANA

1. *Information Bill*

After twenty-two years delay, in March 2019, Ghana's parliament passed the Freedom of Information Bill into law.<sup>19</sup> The bill was first presented in 1997 but failed to pass successive parliaments.<sup>20</sup> Legislators expressed reservations that unfettered access to government information could hurt governance while critics pointed to restrictions in other laws and the constitution that would limit the bill's effect.<sup>21</sup>

G. GUINEA

1. *Simandou Mine Settlement*

In April 2019, the long-running dispute over the Simandou mine was settled, with Brazilian multinational Vale SA being awarded U.S. \$1.2 billion paid by Israeli billionaire Benjamin Steinmetz' BSG Resources.<sup>22</sup> Vale had entered into a joint venture with BSGR to develop the mine, but the Guinean government revoked the concession on finding that BSG had obtained it through bribery.<sup>23</sup>

2. *Police Permitted to Shoot Protesters*

Following years of anti-government protests, in July 2019, the Guinean parliament passed a law permitting police to shoot on sight without fear of

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17. *Gambia's World Bank Signs US\$31 Million Social Safety Net Project*, VOICE (June 12, 2019), <https://www.voicegambia.com/2019/06/12/gambias-world-bank-signs-us-31-million-social-safety-net-project/>.

18. *Id.*

19. Abdur Rahman Alfa Shaban, *Ghanaian President Assents to Right to Information Act*, AFRICANEWS (May 22, 2019), <https://www.africanews.com/2019/05/22/ghana-president-assents-to-right-to-information-bill/>.

20. *Id.*

21. *Id.*

22. *Vale Awarded US\$1.2 Billion Over Simandou*, MINING J. (Apr. April 10, 2019), <https://www.mining-journal.com/politics/news/1360671/vale-awarded-ususd12-billion-over-simandou>.

23. *Id.*

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prosecution.<sup>24</sup> Guinea has been accused of violating freedom of the press by arresting, assaulting, and killing journalists.<sup>25</sup>

3. *Unconstitutional Third Term*

At least nine people were killed protesting government-organized “national consultations” on constitutional changes and legislative elections, which are perceived as trying to legitimize Conde’s ambition to stay in power.<sup>26</sup>

H. GUINEA-BISSAU

1. *PM Forced to Resign*

In November 2019, newly-appointed Prime Minister Faustino Fudut Imbali resigned after an Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) ultimatum.<sup>27</sup> President José Mario Vaz had named Imbali prime minister but his predecessor Aristides Gomes refused to step down triggering a political crisis ahead of presidential elections.<sup>28</sup> ECOWAS condemned Vaz’s subsequent government dissolution as illegal and held an extraordinary summit to pressure Imbali’s government to resign, threatening sanctions if it did not comply.<sup>29</sup>

I. LIBERIA

1. *FGM Setback*

In July 2109, the legislature “backtracked on efforts to criminalize Female Genital Mutilation (FGM),” expunging sections of the proposed Domestic Violence Bill (2014) that sought to outlaw the practice.<sup>30</sup> Former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf had banned FGM in Liberia for one year, although penalties on perpetrators were lenient.<sup>31</sup>

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24. *Republic of Guinea Press Freedom of and Freedom of Expression Environment: Issues and Challenges*, AFR. FREEDOM EXPRESSION EXCHANGE (June 11, 2019), <http://www.africafex.org/afex/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Analytical-Report-on-the-Safety-of-Journalists-in-Guinea-Jan.-2017-to-July-2019.pdf>.

25. *Id.*

26. *Protests Against Constitutional Changes: At Least 9 Killed, Several Activists Sentenced to Prison*, MONITOR (Oct. 22, 2019), <https://monitor.civicus.org/newsfeed/2019/10/22/protests-against-changes-constitution-9-killed-several-activists-sentenced-prison/>.

27. *ECOWAS Pressure Forces Guinea-Bissau PM to Quit after Days in Office*, AFRICANEWS (Nov. 9, 2019), <https://www.africanews.com/2019/11/09/ecowas-pressure-forces-guinea-bissau-pm-to-quit-after-days-in-office/>.

28. *Id.*

29. *Id.*

30. *Liberia: Enact a Comprehensive Anti-FGM Law*, EQUALITY NOW, [https://www.equalitynow.org/liberia\\_enact\\_a\\_comprehensive\\_anti\\_fgm\\_law](https://www.equalitynow.org/liberia_enact_a_comprehensive_anti_fgm_law) (last visited Nov. 2, 2019).

31. *Id.*

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2. *War Crimes Court*

In September 2019, President George Weah called on the legislature to establish an economic and war crimes court.<sup>32</sup> Liberia suffered widespread international human rights violations during conflicts in 1989–1996 and 1999–2003. The 2006–2009 Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommended establishing a war crimes court, but the recommendation was never carried out.<sup>33</sup>

J. MAURITANIA

1. *Aziz Candidate Elected*

Backed by the party of outgoing President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz who came to power by coup in 2008, the former Defense Minister, Mohamed Ould Ghazouani, won Mauritania's presidential election in June 2019.<sup>34</sup> Opposition candidates vowed to challenge the results alleging voting irregularities.<sup>35</sup>

2. *Blogger Freed*

In July 2019, a blogger who was held for more than five years for a social media post about Islam was freed on house arrest.<sup>36</sup> Cheikh Ould Mohamed Ould Mkhaitir was sentenced to death for blasphemy after he challenged decisions taken by Prophet Muhammed during the seventh century holy wars and challenged the use of religion to legitimize ethnic and racial discrimination in Mauritania.<sup>37</sup> Sparking protests, an appeal court downgraded the punishment to a two-year jail term in 2017 when he repented.<sup>38</sup>

K. MALI

1. *New Government After Massacre*

In April 2019, the government of Prime Minister Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga resigned, weeks after the Ogossagou massacre of almost 160 Fulani

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32. *Liberia: President Backs War Crimes Court*, HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH (Sept. 17, 2019), <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/09/17/liberia-president-backs-war-crimes-court>.

33. *Id.*

34. *Mauritania: Former General Mohamed Ould Ghazouani Wins Presidential Election*, DEUTSCHE WELLE (June 23, 2019), <https://www.dw.com/en/mauritania-former-general-mohamed-ould-ghazouani-wins-presidential-election/a-49305828>.

35. *Id.*

36. *Mauritania Blogger Once Given Death Penalty for 'Blasphemy' Freed*, AL-JAZEERA (July 30, 2019), <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/07/mauritania-blogger-death-penalty-blasphemy-freed-190730140440914.html>.

37. *Id.*

38. *Id.*

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herders by an ethnic vigilante group.<sup>39</sup> Although “no reason was given for the resignation, it came amid criticism that Maiga had failed to resolve the worsening security situation.”<sup>40</sup> “Both Mali and neighboring Burkina Faso have been hit by hostilities by armed Islamist groups seeking to extend their influence over the Sahel.”<sup>41</sup>

L. NIGER

1. *Religious Practice Regulated*

In June 2019, Niger adopted a law providing for State regulation of religion in the country despite riots and the opposition of some religious leaders.<sup>42</sup> Opposition parties criticized the means of passing the bill with one representative stating that the government wanted to destroy Islam.<sup>43</sup>

M. NIGERIA

1. *Data Protection, Competition Laws Adopted*

In January 2019, the National Information Technology Development Agency issued the Nigeria Data Protection Regulation 2019.<sup>44</sup> Modeled after the EU General Data Protection Regulation, the regulation safeguards rights to data privacy.<sup>45</sup> The 2019 Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Act was also signed into force introducing a new regulatory authority, the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission.<sup>46</sup> Both the new law and authority were established to increase transparency in consumer protection and competition.<sup>47</sup>

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39. *Mali Appoints New PM Days After Government Resigns*, AL-JAZEERA (Apr. 22, 2019), <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/04/mali-pm-appointed-ogossagou-massacre-190422143413221.html>.

40. *Id.*

41. *Id.*

42. Sia Kambou, *Niger: la loi destinée à mieux encadrer l'exercice du culte adoptée*, RADIO FR. INT'L (June 18, 2019), <http://www.rfi.fr/afrique/20190618-niger-loi-destinee-encadrer-exercice-culte-adoptee>.

43. *Id.*

44. The Data Protection Regulation 2019, NAT'L INFO. TECH. DEV. AGENCY (2019), <https://www.uubo.org/media/1734/uubo-nitda-data-protection-regulation-2019-summary.pdf>.

45. *See generally id.*

46. Anthony Idigbe, *Nigeria: Overview of Development of Competition Law in Nigeria*, MONDAQ (Sept. 26, 2019), <http://www.mondaq.com/Nigeria/x/848544/Antitrust+Competition/Overview+Of+Development+Of+Competition+Law+In+Nigeria>.

47. *Id.*

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2. *Children Freed from Trafficking*

In April 2019, Interpol rescued 216 trafficking victims from forced labor and prostitution in Benin and Nigeria.<sup>48</sup> The operation rescued 157 child slaves with investigations underway to dismantle the crime networks.<sup>49</sup> Nigeria and development agencies announced plans to eliminate child labor in the country.<sup>50</sup> According to the International Labor Organization, at least forty-three percent of Nigerian children are trapped in forms of forced labor despite international conventions banning it.<sup>51</sup>

N. SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

1. *New Labor Code*

In April 2019, Law 6/2019 approved a new labor code introducing rules on employees' rights to privacy, equality and non-discrimination; changes to the rules on disciplinary proceedings; working time requirements; and rules on termination of employment contracts, procedures, and compensation.<sup>52</sup>

O. SENEGAL

1. *Oil and Gas*

In 2019, a new Senegalese Petroleum Code was enacted.<sup>53</sup> Additionally, a new statute on Local Content in the Hydrocarbons Industry was passed promoting the use of Senegalese goods and services, workforce, technology, and capital in the oil and gas industry.<sup>54</sup> These laws were enacted following 2017 reports that Senegal may hold as much as 60 trillion cubic feet of gas and 1.2 billion barrels of oil off its coast.<sup>55</sup>

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48. *Interpol Rescues Dozens of Child Slaves from Markets in West Africa*, EAST AFR. (Apr. 24, 2019), <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/news/africa/Interpol-rescues-dozens-of-child-slaves-in-West-Africa/4552902-5085702-r5arft/index.html>.

49. *Id.*

50. Alex Enumah, *Nigeria: ILO Initiates National Work Plan to Eliminate Child Labour in Mining and Cocoa Supply Chains*, BUS. & HUM. RTS. RES. CTR. (May 7, 2019), <https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/nigeria-ilo-initiates-national-work-plan-to-eliminate-child-labour-in-mining-and-cocoa-supply-chains>.

51. Anadolu Agency, *Almost Half of Nigerian Children Trapped in Forced Labor, Int'l Labor Org. Says*, DAILY SABAH (May 3, 2019), <https://www.dailysabah.com/africa/2019/05/03/almost-half-of-nigerian-children-trapped-in-forced-labor-intl-labor-org-says>.

52. *São Tomé and Príncipe: New Labor Code*, MIRANDA ALLIANCE (Apr. 17, 2019), <https://www.mirandalawfirm.com/en/insights-knowledge/publications/alerts/new-labor-code>.

53. *New Petroleum Code Enacted*, MIRANDA ALLIANCE (2019), <https://www.mirandalawfirm.com/en/insights-knowledge/publications/alerts/new-petroleum-code-enacted>.

54. *Senegal: Industry-Specific Local Content Law*, MIRANDA ALLIANCE (Mar. 13, 2019), <https://www.mirandalawfirm.com/en/insights-knowledge/publications/alerts/new-petroleum-code-enacted>.

55. See, Alonso Soto, *Senegal Opposition Demands Greater Government Role in Oil, Gas*, BLOOMBERG (July 9, 2019), <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-07-09/senegal-opposition-protesters-look-bolivian-style-gas-overhaul>.

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P. SIERRA LEONE

1. *AML, Terrorist Financing*

In 2019, Sierra Leone amended laws looking to combat money laundering and terrorist financing in the country.<sup>56</sup> “With these amendments it will now be possible for lenders who are not licensed and supervised by the Bank of Sierra Leone to be able to register their security interests and collateral.”<sup>57</sup>

Q. TOGO

1. *President Gets Up to Two More Terms*

In May 2019, “Togo’s parliament approved a constitutional change permitting long-standing President Fauré Gnassingbe to stay in office to 2030 despite protests calling for an end to his family’s decades-long grip on power.”<sup>58</sup> The amendment caps presidents to two five-year terms “but does not apply retroactively, meaning Gnassingbe can stand for elections in 2020 and 2025, despite having already served three terms since succeeding his father fourteen years ago.”<sup>59</sup> Another change passed guaranteed life immunity for all former presidents who, under the new constitution terms, cannot be “prosecuted, arrested, detained[,] or tried for acts committed during their presidential term.”<sup>60</sup>

**III. Central Africa**

A. CAMEROON

1. *Petroleum Code Overhaul*

The long-awaited Cameroonian Petroleum Code was enacted in April 2019.<sup>61</sup> The new code provides for eased procedures as well as loosened tax, customs, and exchange regimes for oil companies and now allows the joint operation of blocks covered by separate contracts.<sup>62</sup>

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56. Abdul Rashid Thomas, *Sierra Leone Changes its Laws to Improve Financial Industry*, SIERRA LEONE TELEGRAPH (May 31, 2019) <https://www.thesierraleonetelegraph.com/sierra-leone-changes-its-laws-to-improve-financial-industry/>.

57. *Id.*

58. *Togo Changes Law to Let President Stand for Two More Terms*, AL-JAZEERA (May 9, 2019), <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/05/togo-law-president-stand-terms-190509180859448.html>.

59. *Id.*

60. *Id.*

61. *Cameroon: New Petroleum Code*, MIRANDA ALLIANCE (Oct. 30, 2019), <https://www.mirandalawfirm.com/en/insights-knowledge/publications/alerts/new-petroleum-code>.

62. *Id.*

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2. *Talks Held*

Cameroon started a “national dialogue” in September 2019 “in a bid to end the separatist conflict in the country’s Anglophone provinces although key leaders refused to participate.”<sup>63</sup> “Nearly 3,000 people have died and half a million fled their homes since fighting broke out in 2017 between the army and fighters who want independence for Cameroon’s two English-speaking provinces.”<sup>64</sup> President Biya’s government has rejected both a return to more federalism and any proposed separation.<sup>65</sup>

B. CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

1. *Eighth Peace Treaty Signed*

In February 2019, the eighth peace treaty in almost six years was signed by the government of the Central African Republic (CAR) and fourteen rebel groups after previous agreements failed.<sup>66</sup> The agreement includes implementation of a government of national unity bringing together all political and social forces of the country which includes the Muslim Seleka rebels as well as the mainly-Christian anti-Balaka alliance.<sup>67</sup> Fighting began in 2013 when Seleka rebels seized power in Bangui with anti-Balaka militias fighting back. Some 1.2 million people have lost their homes from the fighting.

C. CHAD

1. *Social Media Reopened*

In July 2019, the Chadian government lifted restrictions on social media after a sixteen-month internet blackout.<sup>68</sup> President Idriss Déby said the restrictions were put in place for security reasons, but the blackout began almost immediately after the country’s parliament recommended a constitutional amendment that would see Déby in office until 2033.<sup>69</sup> Activists “calling for an end to the internet censorship said the sites were blocked to silence discontent among citizens.”<sup>70</sup>

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63. *Cameroon Dialogue Starts as Anglophone Separatists Pull Out*, AL JAZEERA (Sept. 30, 2019), <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/09/cameroon-dialogue-starts-anglophone-separatists-pull-190930070354713.html>.

64. *Id.*

65. *Id.*

66. Benita van Eyssen, *Central African Republic and Rebel Groups Sign Peace Deal*, DEUTSCHE WELLE (Feb. 2, 2019), <https://www.dw.com/en/central-african-republic-and-rebel-groups-sign-peace-deal/a-47337783>.

67. Silja Fröhlich, *New Hope for the Central African Republic*, DEUTSCHE WELLE (May 2, 2019), <https://www.dw.com/en/new-hope-for-the-central-african-republic/a-47373650>.

68. Bukola Adebayo, *After a 16-month Blackout, Chad Is Back on Facebook, Twitter and Other Social Platforms*, CNN (July 17, 2019), <https://edition.cnn.com/2019/07/17/africa/chad-restores-internet-intl/index.html>.

69. *Id.*

70. *Id.*

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2. *Border Closures*

In August 2019, Chad's Defense Minister announced the closure of the country's borders with Libya, Sudan, and CAR.<sup>71</sup> The announcement followed accusations that some of Chad's armed groups were involved in fighting in Libya through trade lines remain open to limit economic impact.<sup>72</sup>

D. CONGO (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC)

1. *Power-sharing*

In August 2019, the government announced a power-sharing agreement eight months after Felix Tshisekedi won a long-delayed presidential election to replace Joseph Kabila who had held power since the 2001 death of his father.<sup>73</sup> Kabila had been made to agree to term limits but refused to step down.<sup>74</sup> Under the power-sharing agreement, twenty-three posts will be filled by Tshisekedi's party, Direction for Change, with the remaining forty-two posts filled by Kabila's party, Common Front for Congo.<sup>75</sup>

2. *'Terminator' Sentenced in The Hague*

In November 2019, the International Criminal Court handed down a maximum thirty-year prison sentence for mass murder and other atrocities to 'Terminator' Bosco Ntaganda.<sup>76</sup> The former militia leader was found guilty of eighteen counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity in July 2019.<sup>77</sup>

E. CONGO (REPUBLIC)

1. *Telecommunications Law*

To achieve universal access to electronic communications, in 2019 the country passed Decree 2019-124.<sup>78</sup> The new statute was approved together

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71. *Chad Shuts Down Border with Libya, Citing Security Concerns*, LIBYAN EXPRESS (Aug. 22, 2019), <https://www.libyanexpress.com/chad-shuts-down-border-with-libya-citing-security-concerns/>.

72. Emadeddin Badi, Mohamed El-Jarh, & Marwa Farid, *At a Glance: Libya's Transformation 2011-2018*, DEMOCRACY REPORTING INT'L, <https://www.democracy-reporting.org/libya-political-transformation-timeline/assets/Libyas-Transformation-2011-2018.pdf>.

73. *DRC Announces Government 8 Months After Vote*, VOA (Aug. 26, 2019), <https://www.voanews.com/africa/drc-announces-government-8-months-after-vote>.

74. *Id.*

75. *Id.*

76. *'Terminator' Warlord Bosco Ntaganda Sentenced to 30 Years in Prison for DR Congo Atrocities*, UN NEWS (Nov. 7, 2019), <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/11/1050841>.

77. *Bosco Ntaganda Sentenced to 30 Years' Imprisonment*, INT'L CRIM' CT. (Nov. 7, 2019), <https://www.icc-cpi.int/Pages/item.aspx?name=pr1494>.

78. *Republic of the Congo Legal News: Congo Moves Towards Universal Access to Electronic Communications Network*, MIRANDA ALLIANCE (May-July 2019), <https://www.mirandalawfirm>

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with Decree 2019-123, which addresses managing the related fund as well as training of those entrusted with development of this sector.<sup>79</sup>

2. *Anti-Corruption Law*

In 2019, Law 4-2019 required senior public officials to declare their wealth.<sup>80</sup> Law 3-2019 also created the High Authority for the Fight against Corruption, responsible for preventing and combatting corruption-related crimes.<sup>81</sup> In August, the President's son, Denis Christel Sassou-Nguesso, a member of parliament, was found to have misappropriated U.S. \$50 million of public money through shell companies and secrecy jurisdictions.<sup>82</sup>

F. EQUATORIAL GUINEA

1. *One-stop-shop Incorporation; Rules of Inspection*

A one-stop-shop for the incorporation and registration of companies and branches (locally known as Ventanilla Unica) created by a 2017 decree became operational in February.<sup>83</sup>

2. *Death Penalty to be Abolished*

In April 2019, President Nguema announced his intention to abolish the death penalty in Equatorial Guinea.<sup>84</sup> President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasago took power in August 1979 and has presided over a steep decline in human rights.<sup>85</sup> Glimpses of hope have included the 2006 abolition of torture, but citizens await meaningful steps to enforce the law and respect human rights.<sup>86</sup>

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.com/en/insights-knowledge/publications/legal-news/republic-of-the-congo-legal-news-may-through-july-2019.

79. *Id.*

80. *Republic of the Congo Legal News: Elected or Appointed Senior Public Officials Required to Declare Their Wealth*, MIRANDA ALLIANCE (Feb-April 2019), <https://www.mirandalawfirm.com/en/insights-knowledge/publications/legal-news/republic-of-the-congo-legal-news-february-through-april-2019>.

81. *Id.*

82. Ruth Maclean, *Son of Congo-Brazzaville President Accused of Siphoning Off \$50m*, GUARDIAN (Aug. 7, 2019), <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/aug/07/son-of-congo-brazzaville-president-accused-of-siphoning-off-50m-denis-christel-sassou-nguesso>.

83. *Equatorial Guinea Legal News: One-Stop-Shop (Ventanilla Unica) Now Operational*, MIRANDA ALLIANCE (Feb. 2019), <https://www.mirandalawfirm.com/en/insights-knowledge/publications/legal-news/equatorial-guinea-legal-news-february-2019>.

84. *Equatorial Guinea: 40 Years of Repression and Rule of Fear Highlights Human Rights Crisis*, AMNESTY INT'L (Aug. 2, 2019), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/08/equatorial-guinea-years-of-repression-and-rule-of-fear/>.

85. *Id.*

86. *Id.*

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G. GABON

1. *Coup Attempt*

In January 2019, a group of soldiers took over state radio and “broadcast a statement calling on people to ‘rise up’ while President Ali Bongo was in Morocco recovering from a stroke.”<sup>87</sup> Authorities regained control, with the military firing teargas into crowds to disperse them, taking the five plotters into custody. The Bongo family has ruled Gabon since 1967, except for four months in 2009.

2. *Aviation, Construction, Oil and Gas*

Gabon passed laws in 2019 regulating aviation, construction, and transportation. In the oil and gas field, a decree passed requires oil companies to bear public administration agents’ expenses incurred while monitoring their activities.<sup>88</sup>

IV. East Africa

A. BURUNDI

1. *Refugees Return*

In October 2019, Burundi agreed that a first group of its refugees in Tanzania would return home as a mass repatriation planned by the two governments began.<sup>89</sup> The first group comprised about 1,000 “voluntary” refugees. Rights groups feared the governments might force the refugees to return to a dangerous environment where they faced political persecution.<sup>90</sup>

B. DJIBOUTI

1. *Arbitration Disregarded*

In August 2019, Djibouti’s attempt to have its high court rule all previous international adjudications in the Doraleh matter null and void was protested by DP World, a party to the dispute.<sup>91</sup> In 2018, Djibouti terminated its concession contract with DP World for operation of the

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87. Ruth Maclean, *Gabon Detains Soldiers After Failed Coup*, GUARDIAN (Jan. 7, 2019), <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jan/07/gabon-military-seize-national-radio-station-in-apparent-coup-attempt>.

88. *Gabon Legal News: Oil Companies to Bear Official Expenses Incurred by Public Administration Agents*, MIRANDA ALLIANCE (Feb. 2019), <https://www.mirandalawfirm.com/en/insights-knowledge/publications/legal-news/gabon-legal-news-february-2019>.

89. Maggie Fick, *First Burundi Refugees in Tanzania to Return Home as Mass Repatriation Starts—Official*, REUTERS (Oct. 1, 2019), <https://af.reuters.com/article/burundiNews/idAFL5N26M25A>.

90. *Id.*

91. *DP World: Djibouti’s Breakdown of Rule of Law Threatens Investment in the Country*, WORLD MARITIME NEWS (Aug. 1, 2019), <https://worldmaritimeneeds.com/archives/280994/dp-world-djiboutis-breakdown-of-rule-of-law-threatens-investment-in-the-country/>.

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Doraleh Container Terminal, following which DP World launched arbitration proceedings against it.<sup>92</sup> Recognizing the 2006 concession agreement as valid and binding, the London Court for International Arbitration ordered Djibouti to pay Doraleh U.S. \$385.7 million plus interest for breach of exclusivity and U.S. \$88 million for non-payment of royalties as well as Doraleh's legal costs. These rulings thus far have been disregarded.<sup>93</sup>

C. ERITREA

1. *Human Rights*

In June 2019, the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Eritrea, Daniela Kravetz, received reports that Eritrean authorities had ordered the seizure of all Catholic Church-managed health centers and that security forces arrested five Orthodox priests for opposing government interference in church affairs.<sup>94</sup> In May she received reports that authorities had arrested Christians for practicing their faith.<sup>95</sup> The Rapporteur concluded that the human rights situation in Eritrea remained unchanged, calling for the government to respect freedom of religion and to release those imprisoned for their religious beliefs.<sup>96</sup>

D. ETHIOPIA

1. *New Rights to Refugees*

In January 2019, the Ethiopian parliament adopted a new refugee law proclaimed by the United Nations as one of the most progressive refugee laws in Africa.<sup>97</sup> The new law allows refugees to obtain work permits, to access primary education, to obtain drivers' licenses, to legally register life events such as births and marriages, and to have access to national financial services such as banking.<sup>98</sup>

2. *Nobel Prize*

In November 2019, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed was awarded the Nobel peace prize for forging a peace deal with Eritrea, which ended a nearly twenty-year military stalemate following their 1998-2000 border

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92. *Id.*

93. *Id.*

94. Elizabeth Scaffidi, *Crackdown on Christians in Eritrea Spurs UN Expert to Press Government 'to Live up to its International Commitments*, UN NEWS (June 21, 2019), <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/06/1041041>.

95. *Id.*

96. *Id.*

97. UNHCR *Welcomes Ethiopia Law Granting More Rights to Refugees*, UN HIGH COMM'R FOR REFUGEES (Jan. 18, 2019), <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2019/1/5c41b1784/unhcr-welcomes-ethiopia-law-granting-rights-refugees.html>.

98. *Id.*

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war.<sup>99</sup> Abiy has also pushed through sweeping reforms at home renouncing past abuses and appointing former dissidents and women to senior government roles.<sup>100</sup>

3. *Greater Press Freedom*

Prime Minister Abiy was praised for “discontinuing media censorship,” but Ethiopia faces continued criticism for implementing an Anti-Terrorism Proclamation to stifle dissent and gag journalists, including imprisoning journalists.<sup>101</sup> The freeing of detained journalists and bloggers, unblocking of websites, and restoring access to exiled media outlets saw Ethiopia jump forty places in the 2019 World Press Freedom Index, but new media and anti-hate laws have been proposed that could curtail the media’s new-found freedoms.<sup>102</sup>

E. KENYA

1. *Calls for Constitutional Referendum*

In 2019, opposition leader Raila Odinga spearheaded efforts for a referendum on constitutional amendments, as part of a handshake deal made with President Uhuru Kenyatta.<sup>103</sup> Odinga said the referendum was scheduled for 2019 once the fourteen-member Building Bridges Initiative had compiled its report.<sup>104</sup> Deputy President William Ruto derided the “one-man quest for constitutional change” saying Odinga should clarify what constitutional change he wanted.<sup>105</sup>

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99. Jason Burke & Jon Henley, *Abiy Ahmed, Ethiopia’s Prime Minister, Wins 2019 Nobel Peace Prize*, *GUARDIAN* (Oct. 11, 2019), <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/oct/11/abiy-ahmed-ethiopian-prime-minister-wins-2019-nobel-peace-prize>.

100. *Id.*

101. Muthoki Mumo, *Under Abiy, Ethiopia’s Media Have More Freedom but Challenges Remain*, *COMM. TO PROTECT JOURNALISTS* (Apr. 29, 2019), <https://cpj.org/blog/2019/04/ethiopia-abiy-ahmed-press-freedom-reform.php>.

102. *See Ethiopian Leader Urged to Consolidate Press Freedom’s Progress*, *REP. WITHOUT BORDERS* (May 22, 2019), <https://rsf.org/en/news/ethiopian-leader-urged-consolidate-press-freedom-progress>.

103. Denis Mwangi, *Referendum to be Conducted in 2019—Raila Odinga*, *KENYANS* (Sept. 25, 2019), <https://www.kenyans.co.ke/news/33411-referendum-be-conducted-2019-raila-odinga>.

104. *Id.*

105. *Ruto to Raila: Tell BBI Changes You Need*, *STAR* (Sept. 9, 2019), <https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2019-09-09-ruto-to-raila-tell-bbi-changes-you-need-to-accept-defeat/pt-defeat/> (V. Graham ed.).

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F. RWANDA

1. *Colonial Laws Abolished*

In September 2019, the Rwandan parliament announced the abolition of more than 1,000 colonial-era laws, promulgated from 1885 to 1962.<sup>106</sup> Among the laws abolished is a 1930 decree prohibiting the transfer of alcoholic beverages on credit or free of charge.<sup>107</sup> “[A] law allowing missionaries of the Catholic Church to possess tracts of land will also be abolished.”<sup>108</sup>

G. SEYCHELLES

1. *Seychelles Buys Cable & Wireless*

In November 2019, in a move hailed as a “tremendous achievement,” a group of Seychellois entrepreneurs purchased the island nation’s top telecommunications company, Cable & Wireless Seychelles.<sup>109</sup> “The acquisition was financed by a consortium of banks,” with the new owners buying the company from one of the world’s largest television and broadband companies, Liberty Global, for U.S. \$130 million.

H. SOMALIA

1. *New Conflicts, IDPs*

In January 2019, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) assessed that the humanitarian situation showed the “continued unpredictable and volatile context in Somalia,” with “new and protracted armed conflicts . . . and erratic weather” leading to a record 2.6 million internally displaced persons, one of the largest such populations worldwide.<sup>110</sup>

2. *Somali Women’s Charter*

Against a backdrop of rights groups reporting that sexual violence remains prevalent despite legal reforms, with rape narrowly defined and cases resolved by elders or in sharia courts, in March the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development adopted “the Somali Women’s Charter”

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106. *Rwanda Announced the Abolition of More than 1,000 Colonial Laws*, HOW AFRICA (Sept. 29, 2019), <https://howafrica.com/rwanda-announces-the-abolition-of-more-than-1000-colonial-laws/> (visited Nov. 6, 2019).

107. *Id.*

108. *Id.*

109. Daniel Laurence, *Major Acquisition: Group of Seychellois Entrepreneurs Buys Cable & Wireless Seychelles*, SEY. NEWS (Nov. 6, 2019), <http://www.seychellesnewsagency.com/articles/11912/Major+acquisition+Group+of+Seychellois+entrepreneurs+buys+Cable++Wireless+Seychelles>.

110. *2019 Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan, January-December 2019*, U.N. OFF. FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFF. (Jan. 21, 2019), <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/2019-somalia-humanitarian-response-plan-january-december-2019>.

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affirming zero tolerance for gender-based violence and calling for gender equality.<sup>111</sup>

I. SOUTH SUDAN

1. *Food Shortages Affecting 7 Million*

In June 2019, OCHA reported almost 7 million people in South Sudan facing critical food shortages.<sup>112</sup> Amnesty International reported no prospect of justice before South Sudan courts for crimes committed during the conflict between the government and armed opposition groups from December 2013.<sup>113</sup> “Thousands of people have been killed by government and opposition forces, and millions forcibly displaced causing a tragic humanitarian disaster and the largest refugee crisis on the continent.”<sup>114</sup>

J. SUDAN (REPUBLIC)

1. *Draft Constitutional Charter*

In the wake of political turmoil that saw President Omar Al-Bashir removed from office, in August, a draft Constitutional Charter for the 2019 Transition Period was issued.<sup>115</sup> The Charter provides for establishment of a Sovereignty Council with delegates from the Transitional Military Council and the Alliance for Freedom and Change that will jointly act as head of state for the transitional period.<sup>116</sup>

K. TANZANIA

1. *Amendments Affecting Civil Society*

In June 2019, the Tanzanian parliament amended multiple laws affecting civil society and the private sector’s ability to monitor government

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111. *Women’s Charter for Somalia Issued at Three-Day Somali Women’s Convention*, U.N. DEV. PROGRAMME (Mar. 8, 2019), <https://www.so.undp.org/content/somalia/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/iwd-2019—delegates-at-three-day-somali-womens-convention-issue-.html>.

112. *South Sudan Situation Report, 28 Jun 2019*, RELIEFWEB (June 28, 2019), <https://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/south-sudan-situation-report-28-jun-2019>.

113. Alice Banens, *OPED: South Sudan Government a Stumbling Block to Justice for Victims of Crimes Against Humanity*, AMNESTY INT’L (Oct. 14, 2019), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/10/oped-south-sudan-government-a-stumbling-block-to-justice-for-victims-of-crimes-against-humanity/>.

114. *Id.*

115. DRAFT CONSTITUTIONAL CHARTER FOR THE 2019 TRANSITIONAL PERIOD (Int’l Inst. for Democracy & Electoral Assistance (Int’l IDEA trans.), available at <http://constitutionnet.org/sites/default/files/2019-08/Sudan%20Constitutional%20Declaration%20%28English%29.pdf> (last visited Oct. 5, 2019); *Sudan Crisis: Military and Opposition Sign Constitutional Declaration*, BBC (Aug. 4, 2019), <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-49226130>.

116. *Sudan Crisis*, *supra* note 115.

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activity.<sup>117</sup> Rights groups and opposition leaders criticized the changes, concerned at the government's increased powers from additional financial reporting and registration requirements.<sup>118</sup>

2. *Underage Marriage Unconstitutional*

In October 2019, the Tanzanian Court of Appeal ruled that provisions of the country's long-standing Law of Marriage Act, that permitted girls under age eighteen to marry under certain conditions, unconstitutional.<sup>119</sup> The court concluded that children under eighteen were incompetent to marry.<sup>120</sup>

L. UGANDA

1. *Protest Clampdowns*

Tensions with public expression increased as the Ugandan government intensified efforts to quell public protests despite constitutional protections of freedom of expression, movement, assembly, and association. In October, defense forces attacked Makerere University students as they peacefully protested a tuition increase.<sup>121</sup> Police used similarly harsh tactics earlier in the year, including water cannons and armored vehicles to break up protests connected to opposition parliamentarian Bobi Wine, who had led protests against the Social Media Tax and in support of fellow opposition candidates.<sup>122</sup>

2. *Social Media Tax Hits*

2019 marked one year of Uganda's social media tax.<sup>123</sup> In addition to concerns that the daily 200-shilling (U.S. \$0.05) tax curtails freedoms of expression and speech, statistics show that the new costs have had a sharp effect on internet subscriptions and transactions, particularly among

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117. *Tanzania: Discard New Law Restricting Human Rights*, AMNESTY INT'L (June 28, 2019), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/06/tanzania-authorities-rushing-to-pass-bill-to-further-repress-human-rights/>.

118. Benita van Eyssen, *A Controversial Bill Awaits Tanzanian President's Signature*, DW (June 28, 2019), <https://www.dw.com/en/a-controversial-bill-awaits-the-tanzanian-presidents-signature/a-49400335>.

119. *Attorney General v. Gyumi*, Civil Appeal No. 204 of 2017, Oct. 23, 2019 (Tunis.), available at <https://fbattorneys.co.tz/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/CoA-Judgment-204.pdf>.

120. Agnes Odhiambo, *Victory Against Child Marriage in Tanzania*, HUM. RTS. WATCH (Oct. 25, 2019), <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/10/25/victory-against-child-marriage-tanzania>.

121. Damali Mukhaye, *20 Arrested As Army, Police Foil Makerere Students Protest*, DAILY MONITOR (Oct. 22, 2019), <https://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/15-arrested-as-Makerere-students-protest-15—tuition-increment/688334-5320380-clwe31/index.html>.

122. Susan Houlton, *Uganda: Bobi Wine threatens Museveni's three decades rule*, DW (May 1, 2019), <https://www.dw.com/en/uganda-bobi-wine-threatens-musevenis-three-decades-rule/a-48551669>.

123. Simone Schindwein, *Uganda: One year of social media tax*, DW (July 20, 2019), <https://www.dw.com/en/uganda-one-year-of-social-media-tax/a-49672632> (2019 marked one year of Uganda's social media tax).

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Uganda's poorest citizens.<sup>124</sup> A study concluded that the taxes and fees could cost the Ugandan economy U.S. \$750 million.<sup>125</sup> Journalists and rights groups planned to file a class action before Uganda's constitutional court challenging the tax.<sup>126</sup>

## V. Southern Africa

### A. ANGOLA

#### 1. *Privatization*

Presidential Decree 250/19 approved the long-awaited 2019–2022 privatization program.<sup>127</sup> The Privatization Program “lists over 190 companies and assets to be privatized from different sectors . . . including mineral resources, transportation, telecommunications, health, agriculture, and construction.”<sup>128</sup> Sonangol, the former national concession for the petroleum sector and national oil company, is on the list to be privatized.<sup>129</sup>

### B. COMOROS

#### 1. *President Reelected Amid Instability*

In May 2019, Comoros “President Azali Assoumani took . . . office . . . two months after his controversial reelection, pledging ‘appeasement measures’ to quell accusations of election fraud.”<sup>130</sup> “Azali seized power in a 1999 coup and was reelected in a 2016 vote marred by violence and allegations of irregularities.”<sup>131</sup>

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124. *Id.*

125. *Uganda's Social Media Tax Has Led to a Drop in Internet and Mobile Money Users*, QUARTZ (Feb. 19, 2019), <https://qz.com/africa/1553468/uganda-social-media-tax-decrease-internet-users-revenues/>.

126. Schlindwein *supra*, note 123.

127. CLIFFORD CHANCE, PUBLICATION OF ANGOLA'S PRIVATISATION PROGRAMME 2019 – 2022 (Aug. 14, 2019), <https://www.cliffordchance.com/content/dam/cliffordchance/briefings/2019/08/publication-of-angolas-privatisation-programme-2019-2022.pdf>.

128. *Angola: Privatizations Program Approved*, MIRANDA ALLIANCE (Aug. 14, 2019), <https://www.mirandalawfirm.com/en/insights-knowledge/publications/alerts/2019-2022-privatizations-program-approved>.

129. Paulo Trindade Costa & Hugo Moredo Santos, *The Angolan Privatizations Program*, LEXOLOGY (Aug. 27, 2019), <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=465884c6-2a0c-4e49-9f5a-472edc9365be>.

130. *Comoros Swears in President After Controversial Elections*, AFRICANEWS (May 27, 2019), <https://www.africanews.com/2019/05/27/comoros-swears-in-president-after-controversial-elections/>.

131. *Id.*

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C. BOTSWANA

1. *Homosexuality Decriminalized*

In June 2019, Botswana's High Court ruled to decriminalize homosexuality, illegal under the country's 1965 Penal Code.<sup>132</sup> The Attorney General, however, on behalf of the government, revealed intentions to challenge the ruling.<sup>133</sup>

2. *Refugee Deportations*

In September 2019, Botswana deported ninety-four Namibian refugees back to Namibia.<sup>134</sup> Over 800 "Namibian nationals who fled to Botswana in 1999 have refused to . . . repatriate and are set to be forcibly returned" following an agreement between the Botswana and Namibia governments.<sup>135</sup> The refugees remain from "an original 2,400 . . . who fled . . . following an attempt to secede the Caprivi Strip from Namibia . . . ."<sup>136</sup>

D. LESOTHO

1. *No Confidence Vote*

In June 2019, Prime Minister Thomas Thabane's All Basotho Convention filed a no confidence motion against him "for allowing his wife to meddle in government affairs as political in-fighting threatened the breakdown of his coalition government."<sup>137</sup> Parliament adjourned with no fixed date to resume, avoiding a vote on the matter.<sup>138</sup> Under the Lesotho constitution the king can dissolve parliament if a prime minister neither resigns nor advises dissolution within three days of failing a no confidence vote.<sup>139</sup>

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132. Brian Benza, *Botswana's High Court Decriminalizes Homosexuality*, REUTERS (June 11, 2019), <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-botswana-lgbt-idUSKCN1TC1EP>.

133. *Botswana Government to Appeal Against Law Legalising Gay Sex*, GUARDIAN (July 6, 2019), <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jul/06/botswana-government-to-appeal-against-law-legalising-gay-sex>.

134. *Botswana Begins Deportations of Refugees from Namibia*, EUR. COUNCIL ON REFUGEES & EXILES (Sept. 20, 2019), <https://www.ecre.org/botswana-begins-deportations-of-refugees-from-namibia/>.

135. *Id.*

136. *Id.*

137. Gulshan Khan, *Lesotho PM Faces Confidence Vote Over 'Interfering' Wife*, ENCA (June 15, 2019), <https://www.enca.com/news/lesotho-pm-faces-confidence-vote-over-interfering-wife>.

138. *Id.*

139. CONST. OF LESOTHO, 1993, available at <https://lesotholii.org/ls/legislation/num-act/1993/1>.

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E. MADAGASCAR

1. *New President Despite Changed Law*

In January 2019, Andry Rajoelina was sworn in as president of Madagascar, ending a power struggle that had dominated the Indian Ocean island.<sup>140</sup> A law prohibiting opposition candidate Marc Ravalomanana from running sparked protests before then-President Hery Rajaonarimampianina revised a law permitting his candidacy.<sup>141</sup> Ravalomanana appealed to the High Constitutional Court alleging fraud, but the court validated Rajoelina's win.<sup>142</sup>

F. MALAWI

1. *Presidency under Siege*

Malawi's May 2019 presidential elections were followed by months of demonstrations demanding the resignation of electoral commission chair Jane Ansah, accused of vote-rigging in favor of incumbent President Peter Mutharika.<sup>143</sup> Opposition parties say there were irregularities and have petitioned the Constitutional Court to nullify the election results.<sup>144</sup>

G. MAURITIUS

1. *Challenge to Anti-Gay Laws*

In September 2019, four LGBT rights activists challenged the island nation's colonial-era anti-gay laws.<sup>145</sup> The Mauritius Law Reform Commission had recommended that the law be repealed, but the Mauritius Criminal Code continues to provide a five-year sentence for same-sex acts.<sup>146</sup> By contrast, the Equal Opportunities Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

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140. Daniel Mumbere, *Recap of Madagascar's Presidential Election*, AFRICANEWS (Jan. 23, 2019), <https://www.africanews.com/2019/01/23/a-recap-of-madagascar-s-presidential-election/>.

141. *Id.*

142. *Id.*

143. Lameck Masina, *Malawi Protestors Call for Electoral Commission's Head to Step Down*, VOA NEWS (June 20, 2019), <https://www.voanews.com/africa/malawi-protesters-call-electoral-commissions-head-step-down>.

144. Lameck Masina, *Malawi Protestors Clash with Police as Election Results Challenged*, VOA NEWS (June 8, 2019), <https://www.voanews.com/africa/malawi-protesters-clash-police-election-results-challenged>.

145. *Mauritius Activists Seek to Overturn Anti-Gay Law*, RIGHTS-AFRICA (Sept. 18, 2019), <https://rightsafrika.com/2019/09/18/mauritius-activists-seek-to-overturn-anti-gay-law/>.

146. *Id.*

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H. MOZAMBIQUE

1. *Child Marriages Criminalized*

In July 2019, Mozambique passed the Law on Prevention and Combat of Premature Unions criminalizing child marriages with girls under age eighteen.<sup>147</sup> The 2004 Family Law allowed for marriage at age sixteen with the consent of the parents, guardians, or courts.<sup>148</sup> The new law eliminates this clause which has seen forty-eight percent of girls in the country married before their eighteenth birthday.<sup>149</sup>

2. *Telecommunications Protections, Tax Waivers*

In 2019, important statutes were approved for the telecommunications sector: Decree 44/2019 which includes the right to customer privacy and security<sup>150</sup> and promoting fair competition; and Decree 46/2019, setting out new reporting and pricing rules for dominant operators. In May, Law 1/2019 established an exceptional twelve-month regime to settle tax debts by granting an exemption of penalties, interest, and court costs arising from national or local taxes and ancillary obligations.<sup>151</sup>

3. *President to Overhaul Legal System*

In October 2019, President Filipe Nyusi promised to reform the country's judicial system if elected to a second five-year term.<sup>152</sup> Nyusi outlined reforms overhauling “the civil, penal, and administrative law codes, and improving magistrate pay and working conditions.”<sup>153</sup> He aimed to transform the Constitutional Council (already operating as the highest court

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147. *Mozambique, Côte d'Ivoire Make Legal Strides for Women and Children's Rights*, GLOBAL VOICES (Aug. 4, 2019), <https://globalvoices.org/2019/08/04/mozambique-cote-divoire-make-legal-strides-for-women-and-childrens-rights/>.

148. *Id.*

149. *Id.*

150. *Mozambique Legal News: Higher Protection for Telecommunications' Consumers*, MIRANDA ALLIANCE (May-July 2019), <https://www.mirandalawfirm.com/en/insights-knowledge/publications/legal-news/mozambique-legal-news-may-through-july-2019-2>; *Mozambique's Telecoms, Mobile & Broadband Markets through 2018-2022*, BUSINESSWIRE (June 19, 2019), <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20190619005536/en/Mozambiques-Telecoms-Mobile-Broadband-Markets-2018-2022>.

151. *Mozambique Legal News: Exceptional Regime for Settlement of Tax Debts*, MIRANDA ALLIANCE (May-July 2019), <https://www.mirandalawfirm.com/en/insights-knowledge/publications/legal-news/mozambique-legal-news-may-through-july-2019-2>.

152. *Mozambique: Nyusi Promises Reform of Judicial System—AIM Report*, CLUB MOZAM. (Oct. 7, 2019), <https://clubofmozambique.com/news/mozambique-nyusi-promises-reform-of-judicial-system-aim-report-143903/>.

153. *Id.*

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in the land in constitutional and electoral law matters) into a Constitutional Court. Nyusi was reelected with seventy-three percent of the vote.<sup>154</sup>

I. NAMIBIA

1. *New Entrants to Elections*

New entrants to Namibia's November presidential elections included the Landless People's Movement (LPM) bringing an agenda of returning both metropolitan and ancestral lands to former holders.<sup>155</sup> In another movement, with its first-ever female leader, the National Unity Democratic Organization (Nudo) also brought the prospect of a female president for Namibia.<sup>156</sup>

J. SOUTH AFRICA

1. *Gold Miners Class Action Settlement*

In July 2019, a Johannesburg High Court approved a Rand 5 billion (U.S. \$353 million) class action settlement between mining companies and miners who have contracted fatal lung diseases.<sup>157</sup> The settlement followed a long legal battle to win compensation for illnesses allegedly contracted from health and safety negligence.<sup>158</sup>

2. *Regulation of Films and Publications*

In September 2019, President Cyril Ramaphosa assented to the Films and Publications Amendment Act 2019 which regulates the online distribution of films and games.<sup>159</sup>

3. *Debt Relief*

In October 2019, Ramaphosa approved the National Credit Amendment Act to provide relief to over-indebted South Africans.<sup>160</sup> The Act allows qualifying applicants to suspend repayment of unsecured debts up to twenty-four months and to extinguish them if the applicant's financial circumstances

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154. *Mozambique: President Filipe Nyusi re-elected in landslide victory*, DW (Oct. 27, 2019), <https://www.dw.com/en/mozambique-president-filipe-nyusi-re-elected-in-landslide-victory/a-51009484>.

155. *Namibia: 2019 Elections—A Lethargic Countdown*, ALL-AFRICA (Apr. 17, 2019), <https://allafrica.com/stories/201904250875.html>.

156. *Id.*

157. *South African Court Approves \$353 Million Class Action Settlement*, AFRICANEWS (July 28, 2019), <https://www.africanews.com/2019/07/28/south-african-court-approves-353-million-class-action-settlement/>.

158. *Id.*

159. *5 Major New Laws Approved by Ramaphosa*, BUS. TECH (Oct. 6, 2019), <https://businesstech.co.za/news/government/344200/5-major-new-laws-approved-by-ramaphosa/>.

160. *Id.*

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were unimproved.<sup>161</sup> The act introduces new offenses related to debt intervention.<sup>162</sup>

K. SWAZILAND (ESWATINI)

1. *Five Wives Order*

In June 2019, King Mswati III was reported to have ordered men in his country to marry at least five wives or face life-sentences, assuring the men that the government would pay for the marriage ceremonies and buy houses for them.<sup>163</sup>

L. ZAMBIA

1. *Constitutional Amendments Challenge*

In August 2019, the Law Association of Zambia petitioned the Constitutional Court challenging the proposed Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Bill No. 10 of 2019 arguing that provisions were both retrogressive and unlawful.<sup>164</sup> LAZ argues the proposals contravene articles of the constitution and are retrogressive because appointing deputy ministers would divert resources from important social sectors.<sup>165</sup>

2. *Motion to Ban LGBTQ Parties*

Seen as a move against the opposition United Party for National Development, in October 2019 the ruling Patriotic Front Party introduced a motion for parliament to ban political parties and organizations that support LGBTQ rights in Zambia.<sup>166</sup> The motion failed as debate was time-lapsed.<sup>167</sup>

M. ZIMBABWE

1. *Continued Repression*

Using the military to crack down on election protesters and government critics, President Emmerson Mnangagwa has been accused of even higher

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161. *5 Major New Laws*, *supra* note 157.

162. *Id.*

163. Philips Sunday, *Swaziland King Orders Men to Marry Five Wives or Face Jail*, NAIJA NEWS (May 14, 2019), <https://www.naijanews.com/2019/05/14/swaziland-king-orders-men-to-marry-five-wives-or-face-jail/>.

164. Staff, *LAZ Sues the President Lungu, the National Assembly and the Attorney General Over Constitution Amendment*, ZAM. OBSERVER (Aug. 12, 2019), <https://www.zambianobserver.com/laz-sues-the-president-lungu-the-national-assembly-and-the-attorney-general-over-constitution-amendment/>.

165. *Id.*

166. *Zambia: Motion Banning Pro-LGBTQ Parties Fails on Technicality*, ERASING 76 CRIMES (Oct. 13, 2019), <https://76crimes.com/2019/10/13/zambia-motion-banning-pro-lgbt-parties-fails-on-technicality/>.

167. *Id.*

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levels of repression than his thirty-seven-year predecessor, Robert Mugabe, who died in September after being forced to stand down in 2018.<sup>168</sup> A joint report of the International Republican Institute and the National Democratic Institute documented significant election irregularities.<sup>169</sup>

## **VI. African Institutions**

### **A. AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS**

#### *1. Death Penalty Case Dismissed*

In January 2019, the Court dismissed a challenge to the mandatory application of the death penalty in Ghana on grounds that it had been considered by the UN Human Rights Committee.<sup>170</sup> The case of Dexter Johnson, a British national tried for the murder of an American national, was the first case against Ghana before the Court and the first time it had been asked to consider a death penalty challenge.<sup>171</sup> Counsel felt it was a missed opportunity for the Court not to consider the matter.<sup>172</sup>

#### *2. Tanzania Violated Non-Citizen's Rights*

In March 2019, the Court issued its judgment in *Lucien Ikili Rashidi v. Tanzania*.<sup>173</sup> The court found that Tanzania had violated a non-citizen's rights when its agents detained him, subjected him to a cavity search, and failed to resolve his legal claims for almost seven years after his arrest for not having his passport and visa in his possession.<sup>174</sup> The Court found violations of Congolese Ikili Rashidi's rights to residence, freedom of movement,

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168. Patrick Kingsley, *A Coup Offered Hope to Zimbabwe. Has its New President Delivered?*, N.Y. TIMES (Aug. 10, 2019), <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/10/world/africa/zimbabwe-president-emmeron-mnangagwa-mugabe.html?auth=login-email&login=email>.

169. *Id.*; see INT'L REPUBLICAN INST. & NAT'L DEMOCRATIC INST., ZIMBABWE INTERNATIONAL ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION FINAL REPORT (Oct. 2018), <https://www.ndi.org/sites/default/files/2018-10-29%20Final%20ZIEOM%20Report%20%288MB%29.pdf>.

170. *African Court of Human and People's Rights Rejects Mandatory Death Penalty Challenge on Technical Grounds*, DEATH PENALTY PROJECT (Apr. 11, 2019), <https://www.deathpenaltyproject.org/african-court-of-human-and-peoples-rights-rejects-mandatory-death-penalty-challenge-on-technical-grounds/>.

171. Misha Plagis, *Questions of Admissibility Following Non-Binding Decisions of International Bodies: Dexter Eddie Johnson v. Republic of Ghana*, ACTHPR MONITOR (Sep. 5, 2019), <http://www.acthprmonitor.org/questions-of-admissibility-following-non-binding-decisions-of-international-bodies-dexter-eddie-johnson-v-republic-of-ghana/>.

172. *African Court of Human and People's Rights Rejects Mandatory Death Penalty Challenge on Technical Grounds*, DEATH PENALTY PROJECT (Apr. 11, 2019), <https://www.deathpenaltyproject.org/african-court-of-human-and-peoples-rights-rejects-mandatory-death-penalty-challenge-on-technical-grounds/>.

173. *African Rights Court Orders Tanzania to Limit Body Cavity Searches*, INT'L JUST. RES. CTR. (Apr. 10, 2019), <https://ijrcenter.org/2019/04/10/african-rights-court-orders-tanzania-to-limit-body-cavity-searches/>.

174. *Id.*

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integrity of person, dignity, and to be tried within a reasonable time.<sup>175</sup> The Court awarded Ikili Rashidi financial compensation and ordered Tanzania to ensure that future searches were in compliance with international standards.<sup>176</sup>

**B. AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS**

**1. *Cameroon Violates African Charter***

In September 2019, the Commission published a decision finding Cameroon had violated rights to freedom of expression, non-discrimination, and the property of a media company and its director, when it failed to create an independent licensing authority to grant the company's radio station a broadcasting license.<sup>177</sup> The Commission concluded in *Open Society Justice Initiative (on behalf of Pius Njawe Noumeni) v. Cameroon* that the lack of independent and transparent licensing limited diversity in broadcasting and was contrary to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.<sup>178</sup>

**2. *UN Accord***

In September 2019, the Commission and the UN Human Rights Office signed a formal agreement to collaborate in areas such as human rights norms and standards, institutional human rights capacity building, research, and early warning and prevention.<sup>179</sup>

**C. AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (AEC)**

**1. *AfCFTA In Force***

By July 2019, after four years of negotiations, fifty-four states had signed the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) which will provide the African Economic Community's (AEC) legal foundations.<sup>180</sup> The agreement came into force on May 30, 2019, after a threshold of twenty-two state parties ratified it.<sup>181</sup> The continent-wide free trade zone it

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175. *Id.*

176. *Id.*

177. *African Commission Finds Violations in Cameroon's Denial of Broadcasting License*, INT'L JUST. RES. CTR. (Sept. 26, 2019), <https://ijrcenter.org/2019/09/26/african-commission-finds-violations-in-cameroons-denial-of-broadcasting-license/>.

178. *Id.*

179. *UN Human Rights Office and African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights Sign Cooperation Agreement*, UN OFFICE HIGH COMM'R FOR HUM. RTS. (Sept. 17, 2019), <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25010>.

180. *African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) operational phase kicks off, with eyes on implementation and Phase II talks, including investment*, IISD (Sept. 19, 2019), <https://www.iisd.org/itn/2019/09/19/african-continental-free-trade-agreement-afcfta-operational-phase-kicks-off-with-eyes-on-implementation-and-phase-ii-talks-including-investment/>.

181. *Id.*

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creates has the potential to “unite 1.3 billion people” and “create a \$3.4 trillion economic bloc.”<sup>182</sup>

D. AFRICAN UNION

1. *Development Report*

In November 2019, the African Union Commission and the OECD launched the second edition of Africa’s Development Dynamics, outlining policy reforms for continental integration and socio-economic transformation.<sup>183</sup> The Commission also launched Domestic Resource Mobilization: Fighting Against Corruption and Illicit Financial Flows that estimated U.S. \$50–80 billion is lost annually from these causes.<sup>184</sup>

E. ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS)

1. *ECO Adopted*

In July 2019, leaders of the fifteen-state ECOWAS bloc adopted the Eco for the planned single currency anticipated for launch in January 2020, although after two decades of delay, commentators regard this prospect as overly ambitious.<sup>185</sup> Eight ECOWAS countries currently jointly use the CFA Franc.<sup>186</sup>

F. EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

1. *Postponed 20th Ordinary Meeting Convenes*

Postponed from November 2018 from a lack of quorum caused by Burundi’s absence, the six-member Community met in February.<sup>187</sup> The countries’ heads of state discussed a progress report on the adoption of a Political Confederation as a Transitional Model to the East African Political Federation, the integration of South Sudan into the EAC, and its admission of Somalia.<sup>188</sup>

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182. Boureima Balima, *UPDATE 1-Economic “game changer”? African leaders launch free-trade zone*, REUTERS (July 7, 2019), <https://af.reuters.com/article/egyptNews/idAFL8N2480RE>.

183. AFRICAN UNION COMM’N & ORG. FOR ECON. COOPERATION & DEV., DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE: LAUNCH OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT DYNAMICS 2019 AND DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILIZATION: FIGHTING AGAINST CORRUPTION AND ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS REPORTS (Nov. 5, 2019), available at [https://au.int/sites/default/files/newsevents/conceptnotes/37511-cn-concept\\_note\\_of\\_launch\\_of\\_add\\_and\\_iffs\\_13102019.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/newsevents/conceptnotes/37511-cn-concept_note_of_launch_of_add_and_iffs_13102019.pdf).

184. *Id.*

185. Aisha Salaudeen, *West African Countries Choose New ‘ECO’ Single Trade Currency*, CNN (July 9, 2019), <https://www.cnn.com/2019/07/01/africa/single-trade-currency-ecowas/index.html>.

186. *Id.*

187. Geoffrey Serugo, *Museveni in Tanzania over 20th Ordinary Meeting of Regional Heads of State*, EAGLE-ONLINE (Feb. 1, 2019), <https://eagle.co.ug/2019/02/01/museveni-in-tanzania-over-20th-ordinary-meeting-of-regional-heads-of-state.html>.

188. *Id.*

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G. AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (AfDB)

1. *Women's Financing Index*

In October 2019, AfDB President Akinwumi Adesina announced the Women's Financing Index, a new tool under development to track lending levels to women across the continent, rating banks and financial institutions against the amounts loaned to women.<sup>189</sup> The Bank, through its Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa initiative, aims to mobilize U.S. \$3 billion to bridge the financing gap for women on the continent.<sup>190</sup>

H. AFRICAN EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

1. *Russian Ties; London Stock Exchange Plans*

At its June 2019 annual shareholder meeting, Afreximbank announced closer ties with Russia. The Russian Export Centre is already a shareholder and the two organizations are linked through a shared investment platform.<sup>191</sup> In October, the Mauritius-listed bank announced plans to list on the London Stock Exchange.<sup>192</sup>

I. UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

1. *Free Trade Area*

In 2019, the ECA co-led efforts to establish a continental free trade area and led discussions on corruption, migration challenges, Africa's position in the global economy, inspiring youth to develop the skills they need, good governance, and improved participation of women in development initiatives.<sup>193</sup>

J. SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC)

1. *EU Development Programs*

In August 2019, the thirty-ninth SADC Summit elected Tanzanian President John Magufuli as chair. Magufuli called for the removal of

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189. UNGA 2019: *African Development Bank Announces New Accountability Index to Measure Institutional Lending to Women*, AFRICAN DEV. BANK GRP (Oct. 3, 2019), <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/unga-2019-african-development-bank-announces-new-accountability-index-measure-institutional-lending-women-31832>.

190. *Id.*

191. Obi Emekekwe, *JSC Russian Export Centre Joins Afreximbank as Shareholder*, AFREXIMBANK (Jan. 22, 2018), <https://www.afreximbank.com/jsc-russian-export-centre-joins-afreximbank-as-shareholder/>.

192. Philip Georgiadis, *African Trade Finance Group Weighs 'Brexit-Proof' London Listing*, FIN. TIMES (Oct. 8, 2019), <https://www.ft.com/content/563eb138-ea5b-11e9-85f4-d00e5018f061>.

193. Christabel Ligami, *Africa's Free Trade Area: The Journey Begins*, AFRICA RENEWAL (Aug.-Nov. 2019), <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/august-november-2019/africa's-free-trade-area-journey-begins>.

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sanctions on Zimbabwe affecting not just Zimbabwe but the region.<sup>194</sup> SADC signed agreements at the summit with the European Development Fund in three development cooperation programs for Euro 47 million.<sup>195</sup>

**K. COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA**

**1. *EU Competitiveness Program***

In February 2019, the EU supported COMESA's implementation of the Regional Enterprise Competitiveness and Access to Markets Programme (RECAMP) worth Euro 10 million.<sup>196</sup> RECAMP is designed to contribute to COMESA interdependence by expanding economic networks and improving access to cheaper products.<sup>197</sup>

**2. *Tripartite FTA***

To support the Tripartite Free Trade Area (COMESA, EAC and SADC), in 2019 the AfDB provided U.S. \$2.9 million for the Tripartite Capacity Building Programme.<sup>198</sup> The program intends to finalize a manual on Tripartite Rules of Origin.

**L. INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT (IGAD)**

**1. *South Sudan***

In October 2019, the IGAD Regional Special Envoys for South Sudan met to assess pre-transitional tasks under the 2018 Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan.<sup>199</sup> With three weeks remaining before the deadline for formation of the Revitalized Government of National Unity, the envoys resolved to better coordinate efforts in engaging stakeholders and mobilizing support for the country's peace process.<sup>200</sup>

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194. *Communique of the 39th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre Dar Es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania*, SADC (Aug. 17, 2019), [https://www.sadc.int/files/1915/6614/8772/Communique\\_of\\_the\\_39th\\_SADC\\_Summit-English.pdf](https://www.sadc.int/files/1915/6614/8772/Communique_of_the_39th_SADC_Summit-English.pdf).

195. *SADC and European Union (EU) Sign Three New Programmes Totalling €47 Million for a Five-Year Period*, SADC (Aug. 18, 2019), <https://www.sadc.int/news-events/news/sadc-and-european-union-eu-sign-three-new-programmes-totalling-47-million-five-year-period/>.

196. *EU Signs € 10m Facility to Support the Private Sector* (Common Mkt. for Eastern & Southern Aft.) Newsletter, Vol 573, Feb. 19, 2019, available at [https://www.comesa.int/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/e-comesa-newsletter\\_573.pdf](https://www.comesa.int/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/e-comesa-newsletter_573.pdf).

197. *Id.*

198. *Id.*

199. *Meeting of Regional Special Envoys on the Peace Process in South Sudan*, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTH. ON DEV. (Nov. 12, 2019), <https://igad.int/programs/115-south-sudan-office/2266-meeting-of-regional-special-envoys-on-the-peace-process-in-south-sudan>.

200. *Id.*

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M. ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF CENTRAL AFRICAN STATES

1. *AfDB Support*

In April 2019, the AfDB released its Central Africa Regional Integration Strategy Paper for 2019–2025.<sup>201</sup> The paper identifies the Bank's plans to accelerate intra-regional trade, inclusive economic growth, and structural transformation of the region, including support for regional organizations, especially ECCAS and CEMAC.<sup>202</sup>

N. UNION DU MAGHREB ARABE

1. *Summit*

The North African union marked its thirtieth anniversary in 2019 with Morocco hosting its seventh summit in line with Moroccan King Mohammed VI's call for better cooperation between Maghreb countries.<sup>203</sup>

O. ORGANIZATION FOR THE HARMONIZATION OF BUSINESS LAW IN AFRICA

1. *Labor Law Harmonization*

In 2019 OHADA undertook drafting a Uniform Act on Labor Law.<sup>204</sup> The completion of sub-regional consultations within the CEMAC zone will lead to finalization of the legislative process.<sup>205</sup>

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201. *African Development Bank Approves Strategy for Central Africa*, AFRICAN DEV. BANK GRP. (Apr. 15, 2019), <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/african-development-bank-approves-strategy-for-central-africa-crucial-for-the-economic-integration-of-the-region-19205>.

202. *Id.*

203. Staff, *Morocco to Host 7th Summit of Arab Maghreb Union in 2019*, MOROCCO WORLD NEWS (Dec. 11, 2018), <https://www.morocoworldnews.com/2018/12/260075/morocco-summit-arab-maghreb-union-amu/>.

204. *Harmonization of Labor Law*, ORG. FOR THE HARMONIZATION OF BUS. L. IN AFR., <https://www.ohada.org/index.php/en/ongoing-reforms-draft-and-revisions-of-the-uniform-acts/the-harmonization-of-labor-law> (last visited Nov. 8, 2019).

205. *Id.*

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P. UN MECHANISM FOR INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNALS

1. *Remaining Cases*

In September 2019, former minister Ngirabatware failed to have his sentence overturned or reduced.<sup>206</sup> The UNICTR convicted him in 2012 of incitement to commit genocide and aiding and abetting genocide.<sup>207</sup>

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206. Balthazar Nduwayezu, *Former Rwandan Minister Ngirabatware Loses His Retrial*, JUSTICEINFO.NET (Sept. 30, 2019), <https://www.justiceinfo.net/en/tribunals/ictt/42496-former-rwandan-minister-ngirabatware-loses-his-retrial.html>.

207. *Ngirabatware*, INT'L JUST. RES. CTR., <https://ijrcenter.org/international-criminal-law/ictt/case-summaries/ngirabatware/#:~:text=In%202012%2C%20an%20ICTR%20Trial,at%20two%20roadblocks%20Nyamyumba%3B%20and> (last visited June 12, 2020).

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**PUBLISHED IN COOPERATION WITH**  
**SMU DEDMAN SCHOOL OF LAW**